



THE TEMPLAR



A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Official publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of
Massachusetts and Rhode Island

GEORGE A. WEEKS, *Grand Recorder*

MORTIMER W. SCHROEDER, *Grand Commander*

Volume 9. No. 1

November 1955

EMINENT SIRS AND SIR KNIGHTS:

The Knights Templar is now launched in a new year of activity, one that promises much for our beloved Order.

Great things have come out of the Triennial Conclave which the Grand Encampment held in New York City recently. Reports taken from the official records reveal that Templary, the fairest flower in the Masonic edifice, is on the march, there being a new gain in membership of 24,648 since the Triennial held in New Orleans just three years ago. This great record also takes into consideration the deaths, demits and suspensions. As of July 31, 1955 there were 380,237 Sir Knights in the United States in the 1618 Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies. Truly, Christian Knighthood is steadily gaining.

Templary has always had a goal, an objective. It has been and is the vehicle which binds fraters together in common and big ideals. It has an Educational Foundation which gives worthy young men and women an opportunity to achieve learning at the college and vocational levels.

Yet another objective was embraced in the New York Triennial...A carefully thought-out plan for a foundation and fund to ameliorate the situation of those in the nation suffering from eye diseases or injuries has been established, and much is expected in results and benefits to contemporary civilization. This grand service will be extended to man, woman or child, irrespective of race, color or creed, the only qualifications being that one cannot afford to pay for services to be rendered by the most prominent physicians and eye specialists in this great United States of ours. This goal reaffirms the place of Templary in America - gives yet another reason for its existence and growth. Your contribution to this great humanitarian project will cost you less than 2¢ a week, and what joy it should bring to your heart to know that you have helped some less fortunate individual...for haven't we taken an oath to help the unfortunate and the distressed?

It was indeed an inspiring sight to see the thousands of white plumed Sir Knights and in full Templar uniform marching down historic Fifth Avenue, swords at carry, plus scores of drill teams, bands and all the pageantry and panoply of an Order whose place and position are second to no other in the United States. It is sincerely believed the uniform is on the way back, and while not obligatory to possess one, every Sir Knight should be proud to own and attire himself for such similar public appearances.

Another important matter. Let us be attentive to the prompt payment of our dues. This is a necessity in most cases to permit the various Commanderies to meet their obligations promptly. Such payments help maintain the Asylum which is yours to enjoy. A Sir Knight should always be mindful of his obligations and be swift in discharging them.

You are also urged to talk to eligible candidates for the entire York Rite branch of Masons, culminating in the Orders of the Commandery, the pinnacle of the York Rite. As a Sir Knight, be ever mindful of your obligations to your individual Commandery. Attend your stated and called meetings. They are stimulating and worthwhile.

Courteously yours,

MORTIMER W. SCHROEDER
Grand Commander

ECHOES FROM THE TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE

Most Worshipful Raymond C. Ellis, Grand Master of Masons of New York State, was knighted on Monday, August 22, when the Order of the Temple was conferred by Detroit Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar of Detroit, Michigan, at City Center Theatre, New York City. The occasion was marked with the presence of many Masonic Treasures: the Washington Bible, the U.S. Capitol Gavel and the Paul Revere Urn. It was the first time in Templar history that these treasured Masonic heirlooms appeared together at the same time in the impressive ceremony.

WASHINGTON BIBLE

This is the Bible on which George Washington took his oath of office as first President of the United States, April 30, 1789. The oath was administered by Robert R. Livingston, then Chancellor of the State of New York and at the same time Grand Master of Masons. The Bible was brought from the Lodge Room to Federal Hall by General Jacob Morton, then Master of St. John's Lodge No. 1 and later Grand Master of the State. This same treasured Bible with the permission of St. John's Lodge, was used at the inauguration of President Harding in 1921, and of President Eisenhower in 1953. At Washington's inauguration, the Bible was opened at the text of Genesis, 49:13-33 and 50:1-8.

GEORGE WASHINGTON GAVEL

In the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol on September 18th, 1793, George Washington used this gavel in the ceremony. The gavel of Maryland marble was made by John Duffey, a silversmith by trade. The ceremonies were conducted under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, which at that time had jurisdiction over what is now the District of Columbia.

At the conclusion of the laying of the cornerstone, George Washington presented the gavel to Valentine Reintzel, Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 9.

Since that time the historic gavel has been used in many ceremonies dating from the early 1800's. Nearly all Presidents have used the gavel in various celebra-

tions and ceremonies. Today the gavel is one of the valued treasures of Potomac Lodge No. 5, Washington, D.C. which possesses its original Minute Books from 1790 to date, and throughout the years following the public use of the gavel has been recorded, which forms a most interesting history.

This priceless historical memento, the George Washington Gavel, is doubtless one of the most carefully guarded relics associated with the first President of the U.S.

PAUL REVERE GOLDEN URN

The Golden Urn, containing a lock of hair of George Washington, may easily be considered the most cherished of all priceless Masonic relics of this Nation because of the association of two great Masons and Patriots of the American Revolution in this one object.

The Golden Urn, which was made by Paul Revere, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts from 1795-1797, is of simple design familiar in the days of the Revolution. A lock of George Washington's hair donated to Grand Lodge in 1890 by his widow, is encased in the top of the Urn under a circular glass. The urn measures about 3-3/4 inches high and is mounted on a mahogany pedestal which is hollow and lined with blue velvet. The pedestal measures 6 1/2 inches high by 3 1/4 inches square at top and base. One side is a hinged door with lock. It is believed that the pedestal was made by Paul Revere.

This precious relic plays an important part in the installation of each new Grand Master of Massachusetts at his first installation on St. John's Day in December, a custom which has been carried on for over 150 years.

The Grand Master honored three of our Rt. Em. P.G.C. - Rt. Em. Frederic Kennedy was appointed Department Commander of the Northeastern Division, which consists of the Grand Commanderies of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut; Rt. Em. Frank H. Wilson was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Committee on Progress and Special Activities; and Rt. Em. George E. Weeks was appointed Chairman of the Public Relations Committee.

GRAND COMMANDERY SERVICE COMMITTEE

J. Leroy Jones, Chairman

A Service Committee has been established under the auspices of the Grand Commandery. Its purpose is to further the progress of Templary by assisting member commanderies with respect to their activities that have produced good results in other commanderies. It is hoped that the Service Committee can help with problems in such fields as membership, finances, regalia, costumes, publicity, and social and patriotic activities.

The Committee wants to act as a clearing house for worthwhile ideas. Each commandery can contribute toward an "idea bank" and thus help a sister commandery by sending a brief report of successful activities to the Committee with facts, figures and comments. Reports will be acknowledged and some of the ideas may be included in succeeding issues of the Templar. Credit will be given to the contributors. Successful ideas of the past, as well as those of the current year, are needed.

The Committee plans to establish a file of good ideas for all types of activities. It is hoped that the Service Committee can be of help to all commanderies, but more particularly to the smaller commanderies, where problems may be more acute. From time to time the Committee may ask for help with unusual problems through the columns of the Templar.

The Service Committee can succeed in its purpose if you make use of it. Contribute your ideas! Ask for help if needed. Successful ideas are like lights, that when used, can light up the road ahead. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works" and by doing so help the progress of Templary.

The Service Committee is headed by J. Leroy Jones, Past Commander of Hugh de Payens Commandery #20, who is acting as Chairman. Commanderies in the jurisdiction have been divided into six regional districts, each served by a District Service Representative. The District Service Representatives are available and anxious to discuss problems and offer suggestions by telephone, mail or in person within their respective districts.

The six service districts and the District Service Representatives are as follows:

<u>Commandery</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Service Representative</u>
<u>NORTHEAST DISTRICT</u>		
Bethany #17	Lawrence	
Haverhill #14	Haverhill	
Newburyport #3	Newburyport	Em. Sir G. Burton Long
Bethlehem #43	Gloucester	41 Longview Road
Winslow Lewis #18	Salem	Reading, Mass.
Reading #50	Reading	Tel: REading 2-1301
Olivet #36	Lynn	
<u>SOUTHEAST DISTRICT</u>		
Temple #48	Norwood	
Bay State #38	Brockton	Em. Sir Irving M. Senter
Old Colony #15	Abington	100 Phillips Street
South Shore #31	Weymouth	Wollaston, Mass,
Quincy #47	Quincy	Tel: GRanite 2-8440
Sir Galahad #52	Waltham	
Gethsemane #35	Newtonville	

<u>Commandery</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Service Representative</u>
<u>SOUTHERN DISTRICT</u>		
Woonsocket #24	Woonsocket	
Holy Sepulchre #8	Pawtucket	
St. Johns #1	Providence	
Calvary #13	Providence	Em. Sir Everett B. Byles
Thomas Smith Webb #51	Cranston	42 Ferncrest Avenue
Narragansett #27	Westerly	Edgewood, Rhode Island
Washington #4	Newport	
Godfrey de Bouillon #25	Fall River	Tel: HOpkins 1-8337
Sutton #16	New Bedford	
Bristol #29	Attleboro	
<u>METROPOLITAN DISTRICT</u>		
Hugh de Payens #20	Melrose	
Beauseant #41	Malden	
Palestine #10	Chelsea	
Coeur de Lion #34	Charlestown	Em. Sir G. Fred Tebbetts
Cambridge #42	Cambridge	201 First Street
Boston #2	Boston	Melrose, Mass.
De Molay #7	Boston	
St. Bernard #12	Boston	Tel: MELrose 4-3809
St. Omer #21	Dorchester	
Cyprus #39	Hyde Park	
Joseph Warren #26	Roxbury	
<u>WESTERN DISTRICT</u>		
St. Paul #40	North Adams	
Connecticut Valley #23	Greenfield	Em. Sir Herbert A. Lang
Northampton #30	Northampton	27 Long Avenue
St. Andrew #49	Holyoke	Greenfield, Mass.
Springfield #6	Springfield	
Berkshire #22	Pittsfield	Tel: PRescott 3-3877
Orange #45	Orange	
Athol #37	Athol	
<u>CENTRAL DISTRICT</u>		
Ivanhoe #46	Gardner	
Jerusalem #19	Fitchburg	Em. Sir Joseph E. Staveley
Trinity #32	Clinton	490 Chelmsford Street
Worcester #5	Worcester	Lowell, Mass.
Milford #11	Milford	
Pilgrim #9	Lowell	Tel: GLenview 7-7283
Natick #33	Natick	

Have you made note of the name, address and telephone number of your District Service Representative? Please do so.

OUR PETITION QUOTA FOR 1955-56

The Grand Encampment, at a meeting held this fall in New York, adopted for use in all jurisdictions the quota system which was developed and has been used for several years in this jurisdiction. As a current year goal each Grand Commandery has been instructed to establish a quota based on additions to membership (or petitions) during the last six years plus 10%.

In Massachusetts and Rhode Island our quota on a petition basis is just under 1000, so we have adopted the round figure of 1000 petitions (including affiliations and

reinstatements) as our goal for the 1955-56 Templar year. This goal is slightly higher than that set last year. In 1951-52, however, we had a goal of 1000 petitions and went over the top with a total of 1003. We have more members now than in 1951-52 so our goal is entirely reasonable. It can and should be maintained.

We are off to a good start. Petitions reported in September and October exceed by 69 the total reported in the same two months a year ago. Eminent Commander Chet Crawford is "back in the saddle again" at Cyprus Commandery, and after an outstanding year in 1954-55, already has petitions equal to 2/3rds of his quota for this year. Congratulations to him, and also to Eminent Commanders Kenneth J. Waite of Gethsemane Commandery and Benjamin F. Hathaway of Godfrey de Bouillon Commandery, for getting 50% or more of their quotas in only two months.

The current year presents another opportunity to strengthen our ranks. The Grand Encampment, by establishing a quota formula, has given every Grand Commandery a challenge to build membership. The best time to get new petitions is during the period of prosperity. Our country has never been more prosperous than it is at present. This is the time! Make the most of it.

Much has been said and written regarding the Patriotic Activities program sponsored by the Grand Encampment. This great program has inspired these lines. Of a certainty there are none among us to doubt in this fateful hour in history that the interests of the United States and the cause of mankind at large are best served by the expression within our confines of an aggressive, intelligent and fully patriotic citizenship. Those who know much about the cunning and the diabolical end-goal of the subversives make the substantiated charge that these perverts are at this very moment attempting to worm their way into American organizations of merit and acceptance, and this whether these be church, fraternal, society or union. It should not be assumed that Masonry is immune to these insidious efforts at infiltration.

The blueprint of the radicals who would destroy America is so camouflaged that to many unsuspecting citizens it passes for a design in progress and general uplift. Invidiously, the appeal is always to hate, to envy and to discontent, and this is a nation and among people blessed to the present beyond compare. It is so easy to be envious and to covet. Only a morally and spiritually fortified citizenry can effectively resist the blandishments of those who promise glibly.

For several years, and this under the auspices of a sponsoring body at the Grand Encampment level, Templary has dispatched various exhortations and patriotic sentiments to the Sir Knights of all Grand Jurisdictions. As a nation, the United States has been dedicated by the Founding Fathers to a purpose sublime, a destiny which would raise the stature of mankind everywhere. The privileges and the blessings of citizenship here are not narrow. They are vibrant and real. They are circumscribed by no limitation except that which derives out of respect for the inalienable rights of others, including minorities. The dignity of the individual citizen is exalted.

Americans are well advised to hold fast to that which has been proven good. Progress is best made in stability and the practice of the virtues which are eternal in principle. This day needs men and women of conviction and character. Americans who will not be timorous in giving contest to the demagogue and the rabblouser. Our prayer might well be "God Bless America! May she be allowed to keep her appointed rendezvous with the destiny envisaged by her Christian founders."

In the final analysis, as so aptly expressed by the poet Walt Whitman, the real and the permanent grandeur of the United States is in the religion of the people.

May we so well meet up with challenge that we shall, in His Name, stand Invincible in every arena and on every front to proclaim His will!

FBI. QUOTA
1955-1956

SEPT. OCT. TOT.

MONTHLY QUOTA
NECESSARY TO REACH QUOTA

COMMANDERIES

St. Johns	47	8	5	13
Boston	75	15	6	6
Newburyport	18	1	0	7
Washington	8	2	0	2
Worcester County	49	0	0	0
Springfield	36	1	0	1
De Molay	51	0	14	14
Holy Sepulchre	27	0	0	0
Pilgrim	21	0	1	1
Palestine	14	6	0	6
Milford	12	0	1	1
St. Bernard	6	1	0	1
Calvary	46	4	6	10
Haverhill	26	0	4	4
Old Colony	13	1	1	2
Sutton	33	0	3	3
Bethany	10	0	0	0
Winslow Lewis	13	0	0	0
Jerusalem	19	0	9	9
Hugh de Payens	40	0	6	6
St. Omer	22	0	4	4
Berkshire	15	0	4	4
Conn. Valley	12	1	1	2
Woonsocket	12	0	0	0
God de Bouillon	8	0	4	4
Joseph Warren	12	0	4	4
Narragansett	13	1	1	2
Bristol	17	0	3	3
Northampton	8	0	0	0
South Shore	10	0	4	4
Trinity	13	0	0	0
Natick	12	1	0	1
Coeur de Lion	22	1	4	5
Gethsemane	31	9	9	18
Olivet	29	1	0	1
Athol	8	2	0	2
Bay State	27	2	4	6
Cyprus	9	0	8	8
St. Paul	8	0	0	0
Beauseant	21	0	8	8
Cambridge	10	0	0	0
Bethlehem	10	0	1	1
Orange	5	0	0	0
Ivanhoe	17	0	0	0
Quincy	20	5	2	7
Temple	13	0	1	1
St. Andrew	9	0	0	0
Reading	19	0	0	0
T. Smith Webb	12	2	3	5
Sir Galahad	12	0	0	0
Total	1000	53	114	167

Sept.	60	53
Oct.	75	114
Nov.	105	
Dec.	85	
Jan.	95	
Feb.	75	
Mar.	105	
Apr.	130	
May	165	
June	105	

ACCUMULATIVE

Sept.	60	50
Oct.	135	167
Nov.	240	
Dec.	325	
Jan.	420	
Feb.	495	
Mar.	600	
Apr.	730	
May	895	
June	1000	

COMPARISON

	1956	1955	1954	1953
Sept.	53	40	21	53
Oct.	167	98	139	129
Nov.		179	192	186
Dec.		262	262	247
Jan.		328	355	345
Feb.		425	429	433
Mar.		516	534	534
Apr.		610	625	611
May		710	727	712
June		726	800	777

Sir Knights

The petition quotas for 1955-1956 are based on the Grand Commandery Quota of 1000.

Courteously yours,

J. LEROY JONES, Chairman
Service Committee